IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 15 as follows:

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1 (Once Amended). A process for creating a porous polymeric body of desired shape, comprising the steps of:

[a. dissolving a polymer in a first solvent to create a solution;

b. adding a second solvent to the solution that causes the solvent/polymer solution to thicken into a gel;

c. forming the gel into a desired shape; and

d.]

a. selecting a polymer;

b. identifying a first solvent that is capable of substantially dissolving a solid form of the polymer;

c. identifying a second solvent that does not substantially dissolve the polymer in solid form, but instead merely swells the solid polymer;

d. providing at least sufficient first solvent to said polymer as to substantially dissolve the polymer in the first solvent to form a solution;

e. adding a quantity of the second solvent to the solution, whereupon the solution begins to gel;

f. continuing the adding of the second solvent until a viscosity of the gel increases to a point where the gel is suitable for shape-forming;

g. shape-forming the gel; and

h. removing the first and second solvents from the gel.

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15 (Once Amended). A process for creating a composite body comprising a porous polymeric body using a gel enhanced phase separation technique, the process comprising the steps of:

a. substantially dissolving a selected polymer in a suitable first organic solvent to form a solution;

b. adding a suitable second solvent to the solution that causes the solvent/polymer solution to thicken into a gel;

c. placing the gel in contact with at least one other material; and

d. removing the first and second solvent, thereby leaving a porous polymer and the at least one other material, wherein said porous polymer and said at least one other material are mechanically bound to each other.

Please add new claims 26-32 as follows:

26 (New). The process of claim 15, wherein the selected polymer comprises a polyurethane.

27 (New). The process of claim 26, wherein the first solvent comprises at least one solvent selected from the group comprising dimethyl acetimide, n-methyl pyrrolidinone and tetrahydrofuran.

28 (New). The process of claim 26, wherein the first solvent comprises tetrahydrofuran, and the second solvent comprises at least one solvent selected from the group comprising p-dioxane, dimethyl sulfoxide and o-xylene.

29 (New). The process of claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyureas, polyethylenes, polyesters and fluoropolymers.

30 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein said first solvent comprises an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, chloroform, p-dioxane, methylene chloride, n,n-dimethyl acetimide, dimethyl sulfoxide, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, tetrahydrofuran, toluene, m-xylene, o-xylene, and methyl-ethyl-ketone.

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31 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein said second solvent comprises an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, chloroform, p-dioxane, methylene chloride, n,n-dimethyl acetimide, dimethyl sulfoxide, 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, tetrahydrofuran, toluene, m-xylene, o-xylene, and methyl-ethyl-ketone.

32 (New). A process for creating a porous polyurethane body, comprising the steps of:

a. dissolving a solid polyurethane polymer in a suitable first solvent to create a solvent/polyurethane solution;
b. adding a suitable second solvent to the solution, thereby causing the solvent/polyurethane solution to thicken into a gel;
c. forming the gel into a desired shape; and
d. removing the first and second solvent from the gel, thereby leaving behind a shaped, porous polyurethane body.

Applicant attaches as Appendix A a copy of all of the claims that are, or have ever been, in the present application, which copy shows their current status.